

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----119489 221935Z /53

P 221730Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WSHDC PRIORITY 786

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T ROME 3357

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, UNSC, ET, SO

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN

REF: STATE 42000

1. WE BRIEFED MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE ON
SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL. HIS REACTION TO PROPOSAL WAS POSITIVE,
AND HE AGREED WITH POINTS MADE IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL AS TO

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WHY SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD BE INVOLVED. RACHELE STATED
THREE CONDITIONS THAT ITAIANS BELIEVE SHOULD BE MET
BEFORE SC MEETING HAS PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS: 1) AGREEMENT AMONG AFRICANS THAT NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT
HAS, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, REACHED DEAD END;
2) SOVIET WILLINGNESS NOT TO OBSTRUCT SC
ACTION; AND 3) SOMALIS AND EHTIOPIANS SUPPORT OF

REFERRAL TO SC.

2. AS TO FIRST POINT, ITALIAN EMBASSY IN LAGOS REPORTED OVER WEEKEND THAT GARBA HAS NOT YET GIVEN UP HOPE FOR HIS MEDIATION EFFORT. HE FEELS THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN BRINGING TWO SIDES CLOSER TOGETHER, AND HE HOLDS OUT SOME HOPE FOR MORE MOVEMENT AT TRIPOLI.

3. ON THIRD POINT, ITALIANS DO NOT BELIEVE EITHER ETHIOPIANS OR SOMALIS ARE READY FOR SC. ETHIOPIANS STILL PREFER AFRICAN CONTEXT FOR EFFORTS TO REACH SOLUTION AND ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ACTIO IN SC WHERE THEY FEEL WESTERN POWERS WILL GANG UP ON THEM AND PUSH THROUGH RESOLTUION UNFAVORABLE TO THEM. SOMALIS, ONCE IN FAVOR OF SC ACTION, HAVE COOLED ON IDEA ESPECIALLY SINCE THEIR FREINDS (INCLUDING ITALISNS) HAVE POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT WHILE PROPAGANDA POINTS AGAINST SOVIETS MAY BE MADE IN COURSE OF DEBATE, ANY SC RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE END WILL BE CALL FOR RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE.

4. DESPITE THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF SC SUCCEEDING WHERE OAU HAS THUS FAR FAILED, RACHELE EMPHASIZED THAT ITALIAN FUNDAMENTALLY FAVOR SC ACTION, AS LONG AS IT TAKES PLACE IN CONDITIONS

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MOST LIKELY TO BRING ABOUT SUCCESS.
ITALIANS WILL THEREFORE SUPPORT SC ACTION IF AFRICANS FAVOR IT. GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, UNGA RESOLUTIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 22 feb 1978

Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014

Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1978ROME03357

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780082-0650

Format: TEL

From: ROME

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780227/aaaaawye.tel

Line Count: 97

Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 8d152bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SS

Original Classification: SECRET

Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: SECRET

Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS

Reference: 78 STATE 42000

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 26 apr 2005

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier:

Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3520054

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, ET, SO, UNSC

To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d152bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings:

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014